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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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April 10, 2012

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Assemblymember  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3120  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for AB 1961 - The Coho Salmon Habitat Enhancement Leading to Preservation Act  
(Coho HELP Act)

Dear Assemblymember Huffman:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors desires to express their full support of Assembly Bill 1961, the Coho Salmon Habitat Enhancement Leading to Preservation Act (Coho HELP Act). It is our understanding that AB 1961 will allow public agencies to collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Game for prompt permit approval on specific enhancement projects that provide better habitat for Coho salmon.

Restoration projects offering the enhanced habitat that is necessary to prevent the extinction of California's Coho Salmon populations should have an accelerated process on permit approval when following the strategies and plans that are based on the best practices developed by the oversight agencies. AB 1961 does include important safeguards that allow the DFG director to withdraw approval if the project is no longer consistent with the requirements of the legislation.

Mendocino County has numerous coastal streams with historic salmon runs including Pudding Creek and the Navarro, Albion, Noyo, and Eel Rivers. Immediate on the ground restoration projects will allow for quicker renewal of upland and riparian areas to prevent further harm to listed fish.

We truly appreciate your foresight in authoring the legislation and extend an offer for any assistance Mendocino County can give to help with its passage.

Sincerely,

John McCowen, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Assemblymember  
CSAC

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